

Tom Horne
Superintendent

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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HORNE: LATEST *A C T* COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS ARE FURTHER PROOF THAT ARIZONA STUDENTS PERFORM ABOVE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

PHOENIX (Wednesday, August 15, 2007) -- State schools chief Tom Horne says the latest results from the ACT college placement exam again demonstrate that Arizona students continue to perform above the national average.

According to the ACT, Arizona's 2007 graduates earned an ACT composite score of 21.8, up from 21.4 in 2003 and an increase from 21.6 in 2006. The national average is 21.2.

"This is hard data that once again demonstrates that Arizona's public school children are performing above the national average. In addition to the ACT, the TerraNova - which is taken by all students in grades 2 through 9 - and the Scholastic Aptitude Test, show Arizona students above the national average," Horne said. "I have long advocated for academic rigor in the classroom, and we are seeing the benefits of demanding excellence from students. All students, whether they are college-bound or not, benefit from a classroom atmosphere that expects students to reach their academic potential."

In addition to the improved scores, 11,084 Arizona students took the ACT test last year, an increase of three percent. Horne added, "The fact that more students took the test and there was still a significant improvement in the scores show that not only are the scores getting better, but the improvement is broader throughout the state."

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